



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL

GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

For Immediate Release
Dec. 3, 2009

Contact: Jean Kelly
Telephone: 225-219-3966

Caddo Parish volunteers raise awareness to protect drinking water

BATON ROUGE - When the DEQ Drinking Water Protection Team moved into Caddo Parish, they formed a parish Drinking Water Protection Committee. The committees are groups of individuals that are dedicated to protecting their drinking water sources from contamination. Committees are usually formed on a parish or watershed basis. Over the next few months, the committee members will be visiting local businesses to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the sources of drinking water in the parish.

The drinking water supply in Caddo Parish comes from groundwater, which is stored in underground sand and gravel layers called aquifers. It also comes from surface water from Caddo Lake and Cross Lake. Actions, such as the disposal of waste and the use of chemicals and fuels, can have an impact on the aquifers. Committee members will visit businesses that may use or store fuels or chemicals located near the public water supply wells and intakes in the parish. The members will give them information on where their drinking water sources are and what they can do to help protect them. Business owners will be provided with a Drinking Water Protection Partner decal that can be placed in their window to show their awareness and support for clean drinking water.

This public outreach campaign is part of the Drinking Water Protection Program, a voluntary program designed by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to assist Louisiana communities in protecting their drinking water. For more information contact the Drinking Water Protection Team at 225-219-3510 or at the Web site, www.DEQ.Louisiana.gov/AEPS.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

: PO BOX 4301, BATON ROUGE, LA 70821-4301

P:225-219-3953 F:225-219-3971

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